

Centuries later, Samuel felt the weight of griping as he sought to represent God to his generation (1 Sam. 8:4-9).

A complaining spirit can destroy the effectiveness of a church too. Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, “Do all things without complaining and disputing” (Phil. 2:14).

We need to avoid a complaining spirit when serving Christ. Instead, rejoice and thank God for all He has done! No griping allowed.

*When things go wrong, I would not be a grumbler,
Complaining, seeing everything as grim;
For when I think of how the Lord has blessed me,
I cannot help but give my praise to Him. —Hess*

When you feel like griping, start counting your blessings.

If you're not helping to make it right, then stop complaining about it being wrong...



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No Griping

During my first week of Bible college, we had several days of orientation in which we were given a rule book to study. Several days later, during a meeting to discuss those rules, one student stood up and asked, “What is ‘no griping’? And why is it against the rules?”

He was referring to a statement in the rule book he had misread. Instead of “gripping,” it read “griping”—complaining or grumbling.



COMPLAINING IS DRAINING!

A rule against griping is perfectly understandable. The cancer of a complaining spirit can undermine the spiritual and emotional health of an individual and can infect an entire group. This can result in discontent, frustration, and even rebellion.

Moses heard griping among God’s people a mere 3 days after leading them from slavery into freedom (Ex. 15:24).

Insights for Living Learning from the Church at Philippi (4)



Paul has one great commendation of the Philippian church but also a number of concerns:

1. Philippi was a _____ church, Acts 28:16-31

#1. In the _____ of the gospel, 1:1-7

(Hebrews 13:3)

"Remember the prisoners as if chained with them; those who are mistreated; since

you yourselves are in the body also."

(1 Peter 3:15) *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;"*

#2. By _____, 1:19

#3. By practical _____, 2:25-30

#4. By _____, 4:10-20



2. Philippi's _____,

#1. They were _____, 1:27, 2:1-4, 4:2-3



Binocular vision

(James 4:1-2) *"Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? {2} You lust and do not have. ..."*

(James 3:17) *"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."*

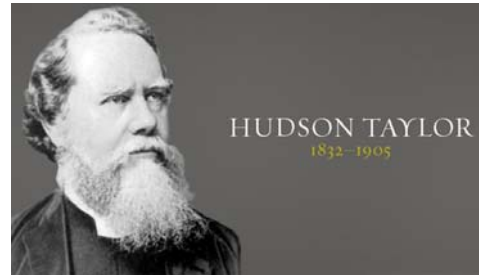
#2. They were _____, 1:27-30



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#3. They were _____, 2:14-16

(Matthew 5:16) *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*



#4. They were _____, 3:1-2, 17-19

